



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

10:00 AM

Present: Chairperson Montaña, Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioner Bigby and Commissioner Hall

Excused: Commissioner Hill and Commissioner Moore

The Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence will be led by Chairperson Montaña.

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a moment of silence.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Meeting to be called to order by Chairperson Montaña. (11-4563)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and noted the lack of a quorum. Commissioner Bigby joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m., establishing a quorum.

Self introductions were made by those in attendance.

2. Approval of the October 12, 2011 Minutes. (11-4564)

On motion of Vice-Chairperson Bacio, seconded by Commissioner Bigby, unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of October 12, 2011 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

3. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Department of Auditor-Controller
Department of Children and Family Services
Internal Services Department

Department of Mental Health
Probation Department
Sheriff's Department (11-4565)

Department of Auditor-Controller's Office

Carla Carr, Group Home Ombudsman of the Auditor-Controller's Office, stated she was unaware of the Pennacle Group Home Issues, however, she will report back at the November Commission Business meeting. She also distributed the "Children's Group Home Ombudsman's Hotline Status Report - January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011."

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

There was no one present to speak before the Commission.

Internal Services Department (ISD)

Mr. Michael Henderson, Division Manager, Maintenance Operation Division, Internal Service Department (ISD), reported the following:

- ISD continues to work to maintain performance Measures at or above 90%; and
- Challenger Probation Camp residents are still on bottled water while ISD explores various avenues to solve the water contamination issues.

Department of Mental Health

There was no one present to speak before the Commission.

Probation Department

There was no one present to speak before the Commission.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Cooper, Sheriff's Department, reported the following:

- Sheriff Baca is examining current issues at the jails that were referenced in the newspapers;
- Deputies are being held accountable for their actions;
- Sheriff Baca held Town Hall style meetings with inmates to determine their concerns i.e., inmates complained about not knowing when their

next medical appointments are scheduled and how the inmates were spoken to disrespectfully;

- Allegation from ACLU regarding an intern report of inmate abuse and that the ACLU intern should have reported the incident immediately to a supervising officer;
- The Sheriff created a Blue Ribbon Committee to oversee/investigate allegations of abuse;
- County received approximately 580 new entries from the State of California Prison System, and the average sentence is 16 months, with one inmate sentenced to six years and undertaking a risk assessment to determine if some inmates qualify for alternate sentencing such as House Arrest, open up jail beds once closed, and possibly contract out with a private owned Correctional Facilities;
- MERIT a life-skills program, which is a 12 week course offered to inmates; and
- A pilot program to partner inmates with a Community member or organization in order to have a support system in place once they are released from jail.

Following discussion Commissioner Hall suggested retirees from the Sheriff's Department should be utilized to conduct investigations, because there is no vested interest to withhold information. Commander Cooper stated he would take that suggestion back to the Department for consideration.

Commander Asmus, Sheriff's Department, reported the following:

- New Deputies should be properly trained, have the right attitude and are held accountable;
- He sees the current issues as opportunity to grow and make things better; and
- The funding for the courts has changed significantly.

4. Chairperson's Report on Various Items for October 19, 2011. (11-4566)

Chairperson Montaño shared the following newspaper articles with the Commission.

Daily Breeze:

- Weapons Stolen from L.A. Swat (October 18, 2011)
- Baca: I'm to Blame for Violence in Jails (October 17, 2011)
- Supervisor Proposes Jail Reforms (October 15, 2011)

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- **Progressive Baca Beset by Scandal (October 13, 2011)**

Los Angeles Times:

- **Supervisors Impose Jail Oversight (October 19, 2011)**
- **Not Buying Baca's Defense (October 18, 2011)**
- **Fixing the Broken Jails (October 18, 2011)**
- **Baca Admits He was out of Touch with Jail Troubles (October 16, 2011)**
- **U.S. Widens Inquiry into Abuse at Jails (October 15, 2011)**
- **A Code of Silence for Jail Guards (October 14, 2011)**
- **30 Jailers Punished for Beatings, Watchdog says (October 13, 2011)**

5. Treasurer's Report for October 19, 2011. (11-4567)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$470.77.

6. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports. (11-4568)

Nyla Jefferson, Staff, reported that parking for the Commission's October 20, 2011 inspection of Men's Central Jail has been arranged.

7. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports. (11-4569)

The following are Group Home monitoring review reports from the Probation Department, and the Department of Children and Family Services which were inspected by the Sybil Brand Commissioners for Contract Compliance.

The following Group Home was reported as being in full compliance:

- **Chairperson Montaña visited Heritage Group Home #3 - 21 #3, on September 27, 2011;**
- **Vice-Chairperson Bacio visited Trinity Children Family Services "Trinity El Monte" - 42 #4, on October 13, 2011;**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Penny Lane "Satellite #7 - 34 #1, on October 14, 2011; and Heritage Group Homes #5 - 21#4, on October 18, 2011.**

8. Commissioners' Reports on Group Homes and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from October 13, 2011 to October 18, 2011. (11-4570)

During the reporting period the following Group Homes were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Chairperson Montaña visited Los Angeles Youth Network "Beachwood" - 26 #1, on October 13, 2011; Beverly Hills Branch Courthouse, on October 14, 2011; and Children's Homes of Southern California "Baird Group Home" - 9 #1, on October 17, 2011.**

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (11-4571)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (11-4572)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

11. Adjournment for the meeting of October 19, 2011. (11-4573)

The October 19, 2011 meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.